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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, May 3, 1984 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended April 28 totaled an estimated 17.0 billion ton-miles, 5.8 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today. Traffic for the 1984 week was somewhat depressed due to severe weather conditions in the western part of the country.

Cumulative volume for the first 17 weeks of 1984 was an estimated 292.9 billion ton-miles, 13.8 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended April 28 totaled 394,014, 6.4 percent above 1983, and virtually the same as the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 11.8 percent in the East, 10.8 percent in the South and 0.3 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1983, 14 of the 21 commodity groups showed increases. Coal loadings were up 11,326 cars (11.5 percent), and grain loadings posted a gain of 2,813 cars (13.3 percent). Seventeen of the 21 groups increased from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended April 21 totaled 50,453 cars, up 14.0 percent from the corresponding week of 1983, and 85,368 trailers and/or containers, 11.8 percent higher than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 16 weeks of the year was 801,063 cars, 19.4 percent higher than last year, and 1,394,444 trailers and/or containers, up 20.8 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 4/28/84:

	Loadings in Week ended April 28, 1984		Change from Corresponding Week 1983			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	23,891	I	2,813	13.3	D	1,340	5.6
Other farm products	4,175	I	340	8.9	D	176	4.2
Metallic ores	17,600	D	3,019	14.6	I	844	4.8
Coal	109,726	I	11,326	11.5	D	11,247	10.3
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	11,703	I	1,934	19.8	I	333	2.8
Nonmetallic minerals	12,717	I	945	8.0	I	1,151	9.1
Grain mill products	10,202	D	1,044	9.3	I	249	2.4
Food and kindred products	10,847	D	1,489	12.1	I	594	5.5
Primary forest products	14,666	D	724	4.7	I	677	4.6
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,914	I	202	2.6	I	637	8.0
Pulp, paper and allied products	14,859	D	584	3.8	I	582	3.9
Chemicals and allied products	26,759	I	1,998	8.1	I	2,509	9.4
Petroleum products	5,147	D	22	0.4	I	609	11.8
Stone, clay and glass products	11,797	I	1,165	11.0	I	592	5.0
Coke	5,845	I	990	20.4	I	297	5.1
Metals and products	10,689	I	931	9.5	I	267	2.5
Motor vehicles and equipment	20,054	I	2,232	12.5	I	1,817	9.1
Waste and scrap materials	10,038	I	1,351	15.6	I	657	6.5
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	7,035	D	1,590	18.4	I	139	2.0
All other carloads	58,117	I	6,105	11.7	I	904	1.6
LCL traffic	233	I	6	2.6	D	13	5.6
Total Cars Loaded	394,014	I	23,866	6.4	I	82	0.0
Corresponding week of 1983	370,148						

	1984	1983	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (17 weeks)	6,646,420	5,884,517	I 12.9
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
16 weeks ended April 21	275.9	241.2	I 14.4
Week ended April 28	17.0	16.1	I 5.8
17 weeks cumulative	292.9	257.3	I 13.8

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